Cultivation of medicinal plants in Rajasthan

407. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are special plans and a road map to encourage cultivation of medicinal plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are formulating any scheme for promoting cultivation of medicinal plants in Rajasthan also;

(d) if so, the details thereof, specifying the names of medicinal plants and the present status of their cultivation and production;

(e) whether Government have conducted any survey with regard to the problems being faced in this context by cultivators of the State;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures proposed therefor;

(g) whether some proposals are pending consideration with the centre; and

(h) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Medicinal Plants Board has been set up through Government resolution notified on 24th November, 2000, to coordinate all matters related to medicinal plants sector. Based on the report of the "Task Force on conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants of the Planning Commission" which *inter-alia* identified the thrusts areas and recommended a road map, the Medicinal Plants Board has been implementing Promotional and Contractual Farming Schemes under which financial assistance is provided for development and cultivation of medicinal plants.

(c) and (d) The Medicinal Plants Board is providing financial assistance for projects under Contractual Farming and Promotional Schemes to the States and UTs including the State of Rajasthan. Under Contractual Farming, Scheme subsidy @30% of the project cost is provided as financial

assistance to the farmers subject to a maximum of Rs.9 lakhs. Under Promotional Scheme, grant up to a maximum of Rs. 30 lakh is provided for various Promotional activities which include projects on production of quality planting material, training, awareness, extension and setting up of Herbal Gardens. The main species cultivated in Rajasthan are Isabgol and Senna (Sonamukhi). Information regarding area of land (in hectares) and Production (in metric tons) in respect of Isobgol is as under:

Area (inhectares) and production (in metric tones)

2000-01		01-02		02-03		03-04		04-05	
Area	Prodn.	Area	Prodn.	Area	Prodn.	Area	Prodn.	Area	Prodn.
100248	72494	94963	61413	120958	74147	99518	72783	81538	41721

Information regarding area of land (in hectares) and Production (in metric tons) in respect of Senna (Sonamukhi) is as under:

Area (in hectares) & Production (in metric tonnes)

2000-01		01-02		02-03		03-04		04-05	
Area	Prodn.	Area	Prodn.	Area	Prodn.	Area	Prodn.	Area	Prodn.
946	107	954	298	1644	420	8561	3606	16840	6381

The other medicinal plants cultivated with financial assistance from the Board are Amla, Aloe-vera, Guggal, Kalihari, Stevia, Lemon grass, Palmarosa, Shatawari, Coleus, Kalmegh, Ashwgandha, Safed Musli etc.

(e) and (f) The National Medicinal Plants Board has launched an evaluation study through Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun and Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal. Their report is awaited. Besides, the State Medicinal Plants Board carries out regular monitoring to assess the implementation of the projects and address the problems being faced by the farmers. Availability of Quality Planting Material and Marketing of the produce are some of problem areas. The Board is sanctioning projects specificially for production of Quality Planting Material so that the farmers get the planting material of quality. The State Medicinal Plants Board also assist the farmers in various ways including supply of information on market trends of medicinal plants and the buyers for the produce. The State Medicinal Plants Boards also

conduct training programmes for the farmers to provide technical inputs and relevant information.

(g) and (h) The receipt of project proposals and their consideration is a continuing extercise.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, I am grateful for a lengthy and detailed reply, but it does not reply certain specific queries that I had made.

In my question, I had specifically asked what particular problems were being faced by cultivators of medicinal plants in Rajasthan and what were the remedial measures. There is no reply to this.

Lastly, I asked whether some proposals of the Government of Rajasthan were pending consideration at present with the Centre and, if so, what was the response of the Government thereto. The reply is very laconic. The reply is, "The receipt of project proposals and their consideration is a continuing exercise". We know it is a continuing exercise. But, is it a reply to a specific query of mine, as to which are the project which are pending, at present and what is their disposal? What is the response of the Central Government? There are supplementaries also, Sir.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, Rajasthan is the largest beneficiary of our funding. We have sanctioned the maximum number of projects in Rajasthan and have given the maximum number of funds to Rajasthan. Sir, throughout India, 78000 hectares is under cultivation of medicinal plants. Out of this, for 41000 hectares, we are giving grant to Rajasthan only, Sir.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: No, I had not asked which kind of benevolent dispensation you are doing. My specific query was, your honour, which are the projects which are, at present, pending consideration, and what is the response of the Central Government to those? It was a very specific query.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we have received 1049 project from Rajasthan alone during 2005-06. We cleared 385 projects for a total outlay of Rs. 9.54 crores. We are in the process of clearing the remaining projects.

डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति महोदय, यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। इसका एक पहलू, जिसके बारे में मैं जानना चाहूंगा, वह यह है कि जब ये herbal plants की medicines बाज़ार

में आती हैं, तो उनके उत्पादकों को ठीक दाम मिलें और उन दवाइयों का ठीक ढंग से सारे हिन्दुस्तान में वितरण हो सके, इसके बारे में क्या सरकार ने कोई चिंता की है? आज विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में इन herbal plants का उत्पादन करने वाले जो लोग हैं, उनके सामने बाज़ार की बड़ी भारी कठिनाई है और उनका किसी प्रकार से शोषण न हो, exploitation न हो, उन्हें अचित दाम मिलें, इसके लिए सरकार क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we are coordinating with the buyers and we are providing...

डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी: यह तो कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। कोआर्डिनेशन तो हमेशा ही होता रहता है। आपके पास क्या कोई तंत्र है, क्या आपने इसकी मार्केटिंग के लिए कोई संस्था बनाई है या बनाने पर विचार करेंगे, जहां से इनको ठीक दाम मिल सकें? क्या आप इन herbal medicinal plants के लिए कोई minimum support price तय करेंगे, कैसे करेंगे, ताकि उन्हें ठीक दाम मिल सकें, नहीं तो कुछ दिनों के बाद वे इनका उत्पादन बंद कर देंगे।

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: We will send it definitely, Sir.

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर: सभापति जी, डा॰ पिलानिया जी का प्रश्न राजस्थान के संदर्भ में बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि राजस्थान में लगातार अकाल पड़ने से और पानी की समस्या के कारण संकट रहता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या ऐसी मरुभूमि में या जहां पानी कम होता है, क्या वहां औषधीय पौधों की खेती हो सकती है, ताकि किसानों को उनके अच्छे दाम मिल सकें? क्या वहां इस तरह का प्रचार-प्रसार है कि अगर ऐसी अमुक भूमि हो या ऐसा climate हो या कम बारिश हो, तो भी उसमें इस तरह की औषधीय खेती हो सकती है? मुझे नहीं लगता है कि वहां इस बात का पूरा प्रचार है या इस तरह की कोई शिक्षा किसानों को दी गई है। मैंने राजस्थान के किसानों से इसकी जानकारी ली है।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, इनको बोलने दीजिए, जवाब देने दीजिए।

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर: वहां के किसान इनकी खेती करना चाहते हैं, लेकिन उनको इसके बारे में जानकासी नहीं है। क्या मंत्री महोदया वहां के किसानों को ऐसी जानकारी से अवगत कराएंगी? राजस्थान सरकार से आपको जो प्रस्ताव मिले हैं, उनका कार्यान्वयन कब तक हो सकेगा?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, through some organisations, we are encouraging the farmers. We are coordinating through them.

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया: सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगी कि औषधीय पौधों का संबंध ज्यादातर ट्राईबल इलाकों से और ट्राईबल लोगों के साथ है, जैसे कि राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और उड़ीसा। यहां के आदिवासी इलाकों में मेडिकल डॉक्टरों के पास न जाते

हुए medicinal पौधों की सहायता से बीमारियों ठीक होती हैं। क्या मंत्री जी के पास कोई ऐसा action plan है, जिससे ट्राईबल इलाकों में इन औषधीय पौधों का planation करने और उनके medicines तैयार करने के लिए कोई प्रोत्साहन देने की योजना है? इसके साथ ही ट्राईबल क्षेत्र को डेवलप करके, इस लाइन में उनको आगे लाने और medicinal market के competition में आगे लाने के लिए कोई प्रावधान आपने किया है?

SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, there are 35 State Medicinal Plants Boards throughout India, in all the States and the UnionTerritories; finance is provided for the functioning of these. The project proposals received from the State Medicinal Plants Boards for assistance under the scheme are examined and sanctioned.

Kaul Committee Report on CGHS

408. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kaul Committee appointed to go into the functioning of the Central Government Health Scheme has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, by when the same is likely to be submitted by the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Government has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Kaul, former Cabinet Secretary to go into the functioning of CGHS and for giving recommendations for making it more user friendly. The committee has so far held 11 meetings and on the recommendations of the committee, the following measures have been initiated:-

(i) Computerization of CGHS dispensaries: A pilot project has been implemented at Laxmi Nagar Dispensary at Delhi. It is now being extended to 3 VIP dispensaries *i.e.* North Avenue, South Avenue and Parliament Annexe. Computerization of CGHS dispensaries in Delhi would also be taken up in a phased manner.